

Mathematics Board Report January 2014

Curriculum News

Last spring, Unity High School adopted College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM) for all mathematics courses offered with the exception of Statistics and AP Statistics. The high school mathematics and special education staff are very excited about the way the curriculum spirals, the emphasize on mathematics vocabulary, and



student-centered learning where the teacher aids in discovery rather than simply distributing information. The adoption will occur over a number of years as the program is much different than what the average high school student is used to at this level. This fall, CPM was implemented in the Pre-algebra, Algebra, and special education math classes. Geometry and Algebra II will be implemented in the fall of 2014, with Trigonometry and Calculus to follow in the fall of 2015.

To fully prepare teachers, CPM offers seven days of free training which is lead by CPM consultants who are also classroom teachers. This summer, four teachers attended four days of training where they were able to experience the curriculum first hand. The training allowed educators to experience a number of chapters as students themselves. Teachers say it was an invaluable experience. In addition to those four days of training, teachers also have the opportunity to attend three additional days of training throughout the school year, focusing on upcoming chapters as well as networking with other teachers utilizing the same curriculum.

Unity Elementary and Middle School teachers have had the opportunity to work with an Everyday Math consultant, Mary Freitag. Mary has worked extensively with the spiraling curriculum of Everyday Math to complete curriculum mapping and determine the benchmarks based on the Common Core Standards. She has come to Unity twice to lead professional development curriculum mapping, grade level

benchmarking, and assessment. Teachers have access to assessment resources using Everyday Math WI Online. Ms. Freitag has another visit planned for later in the year to provide more professional development with Everyday Math to help teachers differentiate the curriculum for students needing more challenges and/or more assistance.

Interventions

With RtI at the forefront, the search for and implementation of effective interventions has been a focus throughout the district.

At the elementary and middle school level, teachers continue to utilize Compass Learning. In addition, they will be implementing Do the Math (grades 1–6) and Do the Math Now (6 and up), a Scholastic program meant to help close gaps for students with a focus on numbers and operations. The expectation is by building students' knowledge of key concepts, students will learn how to reason mathematically, building their skills as they advance to higher-level mathematics.

At both the middle and high school level, Academy of Math has been implemented as a targeted intervention strategy. As with Do the Math and Do the Math Now!, there is a focus on numbers and operations with the idea that if students are able reach mastery in basic concepts, they will be able to access high level thinking. Students train on the program three times a week, with teachers monitoring their progress in real time. When a student is flagged as struggling through the program, the teacher is immediately notified and is able to conference with the student.